



Senior Canyon Mutual Water Company

P.O. Box 600, Ojai, California 93024

August 2026 Updates

Water Production and Purchases

In July, water production from the canyon was 47 acre feet (2,047,320 cubic feet; 15,314,997 gallons), which is about three acre feet less than our June production. At the same time, our purchases from Casitas more than doubled, from about nine acre feet in June, to more than 21 acre feet in July (914,760 cubic feet; 6,842,871 gallons). The significant increase in our purchase of Casitas water will unfortunately be reflected in this month's Purchase Water Charge (PWC) on your bill.

The Tunnel Project

After lots of hard work, the Tunnel Project is nearing completion. Harrison Western is currently drilling bore holes in the ceiling and side walls of the tunnel, and the results are initially quite amazing. We are now producing around 180 gallons per minute from the tunnel, which is four times the amount we normally produce at this time of year. The question, of course, is whether or not this production will continue, and if so, for how long?



Once Harrison Western finishes drilling the bore holes, they will decommission the site and haul their equipment down the canyon. At the same time, Rei and Robert will thoroughly flush the tunnel line before integrating the tunnel water into our canyon supply. There is still about one month of activity left to go, but the end is in sight!

Cross Connection Control Program

With your bill for July usage, you'll receive a notice regarding Senior Canyon's Cross Connection Control Program along with a Questionnaire regarding the type of cross connection control device installed on your water system. A cross-connection is any actual or potential connection between the public drinking water system and another source of water or substance that could allow contaminants to flow backward (called "backflow") into the public water system.

As we say on our website, the California State Water Resources Control Board adopted a new regulation called the **Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook** (CCCPH). As a consequence, Senior Canyon must assume full responsibility for managing the CCCPH program within our service territory. The Handbook requires Senior Canyon to administer a cross-connection control program that protects the drinking water supply from contamination by eliminating existing and potential cross connections.



Under California's cross-connection control regulations, as well as Senior Canyon's Rules and Regulations for Water Service, shareholders are legally required to protect the water system from contamination caused by backflow. Customers are directly responsible for a number of things under the program including device installation and ownership, annual testing, maintenance and repair, hazards assessments, and corrective action.

In addition, all customers must complete the Cross-Connection Assessment Questionnaire, which is available on our website as a fillable pdf document. Please read the letter carefully, and for more information, please visit our website at <https://seniorcanyonwater.com/cross-connection-control-backflow-prevention/>.

Water Operator of the Year

On the morning of December 26, 2025, Senior Canyon's Operations Manager, Rei Cartagena, responded to an emergency at Senior Canyon's Dam #3. Overnight, heavy rain eroded a portion of the downstream face of the dam. Having drilled on the company's Emergency Action Plan, Rei knew what to do. He stayed calm, thoughtful and precise in his actions. He worked with state and local officials to first assess the extent of the erosion, then to initiate measures to contain the situation. On the nights of December 26 and 27, he camped out at the reservoir, waking every hour or so to make sure no further erosion had taken place. In the days following the incident, Rei and his staff initiated additional measures to prevent further damage.

For Rei's efforts to manage the emergency, and for his continued excellent performance, the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County presented him with the **Water Operator of the Year Award** at AWA's 4th Annual Outdoor BBQ and Education Event on July 29th held at Camarillo Grove Park. In presenting the award to Rei, Wes Richardson of Calleguas Municipal Water District and Chairman of the Channel Counties Water Utilities Committee, said of his actions:

His response to the erosion event on December 26th proved to people living in Ojai's East End that this Mutual Water Company is able to respond quickly and by-the book in the event of an emergency, and demonstrated not only how quickly they can respond to an emergency, but that it can respond in a way that puts public safety above all other concerns. His actions instilled trust with the emergency response officials, his team, his board, and the people who rely on water operator service.



All of us on the board are proud of Rei's accomplishments, and are thrilled that his commitment to lead Senior Canyon's operations team stays as strong as always. Congrats, Rei!!!

For the board,

Jim